

are revised. Recertification requires thirty hours of continuing education. Also the use of defibrillators by an emergency medical technician, defibrillators or the new category, EMT-D, requires the use of a defibrillator which uses recording monitor strips and it has a device which records audio and EKG signals. The competency of these personnel will be confirmed monthly. Everything under the new EMT-D classification is under the Board of Advanced Emergency Medical Care, and I would move the adoption of the committee amendments at this time.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cullan, do you wish to discuss the committee amendments? We are discussing the committee amendments to LB 254. Senator Cullan, do you wish recognition on the committee amendments? Senator Hefner, do you wish to speak on the committee amendments?

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support the committee amendments. The committee amendments are...contain what LB 93 had in it and this was my bill. I just want to tell you a little story. Last fall a 17 year old senior high school student from my area collapsed after football practice and the attending physician said that he died of cardiac arrest brought on by a severe asthma attack, and I understand that they did bring a defibrillator in from Yankton, South Dakota which is approximately 20 miles away but it was too late. The boy died and the physician said that he believed that if their emergency unit or if they would have had one in their clinic that they believed that they could have saved the boy's life. So the community banded together, raised enough money to buy one. After they had purchased one and the rescue unit experimented with it, they found out that they were not allowed by our statutes to operate this. Only a doctor, a physician, or an RN could operate this defibrillator and so they approached me and asked me if I would introduce a bill to allow EMTs to take an expanded course and to operate a defibrillator, and I said I would. So I introduced this bill. We had a public hearing on it and Senator Cullan had one that contained about the same issues and so the Public Health and Welfare Committee saw fit to merge LB 93 into 254 and this way if we pass this bill with the amendment attached, this way emergency units could carry a defibrillator in their rescue units. I believe this will be quite a boon for especially the rural emergency medical units to have. I realize that we need to be careful with it, but in talking to the Department of Health, they say that they can establish a training course for these EMTs to take and they would be well qualified to operate this. The State of Iowa at the present time is conducting a study and they are along about in their eighteenth, or nineteenth, or maybe even twentieth month in this, and they